

REVIEWED BY MBH DATE 4/23/91 SECRET

(X) RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() EXCISE (X) DECLASSIFY in PART
() DENTY (X) Non-response to req.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Executive Secretariat

FOI, LO or PA exemptions

TS Authority to: November 21, 1958

() CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

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Publications
Rm. 5131 N.S.

THE ACTING SECRETARY'S MEETING, 9:15 a.m. (attendance attached)

Mr. Herter Chairman

2. Berlin

Mr. Herter referred to a recent Berlin telegram regarding "self imposed blockade" and asked whether we have recognized the right of the Soviets to inspect our convoys. Mr. Murphy said we permit them to check documents but this did not constitute admission they have right to stop and inspect. He said within the Department there was agreement that we should not adopt the JCS proposal re use of minimum force to extricate a convoy. The consensus was that in such a case we should have ~~the~~ sufficient force to push on through. Responding to Mr. Herter's query, Mr. Merchant said they are revising existing tripartite papers in Bonn and referring them back as necessary to governments. He said we are setting up a US working group here and may subsequently establish Washington as a tripartite coordination point. Mr. Herter emphasized the urgency of the situation and said we should coordinate our position before we are approached by the Soviets. He observed also that Presidential approval would be required on our course of action. It was agreed that we should say as little as possible publicly on the Berlin situation.

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